



## Sand Fencing Guidelines

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
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Coastal Construction Control Line Program  
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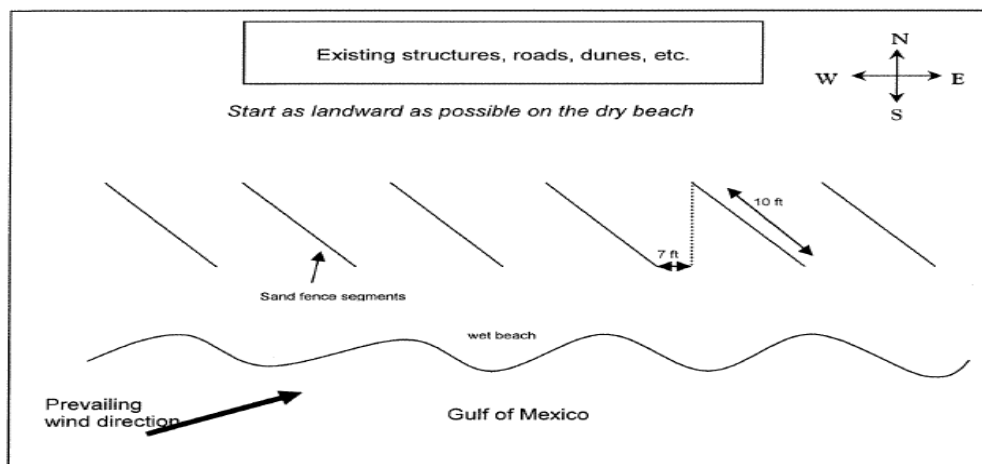
Sand fences can assist dune vegetation and placement of beach compatible sand in rebuilding sand dunes by trapping windblown sand. Standard fencing used in dune restoration projects consists of wooden slats wired together with space between the slats as originally designed for snow fences. Sand fence designs with woven fabric type fencing have also been successful. Whatever the material being used, the fence is recommended to have a 40% open space to 60% closed space ratio for most effective sand trapping. Fabric-type fences might not hold up as well as the wooden slats since they are more susceptible to ultraviolet degradation.

Sand fences are usually 2 to 4 feet high and recommended to be lifted and repositioned prior to becoming 50% buried. If completely buried in sand, the fence loses the ability to collect more sand and the fence materials become difficult to remove and potential safety hazards.

Sand fences require Coastal Construction Control Line permits and must be installed outside of sea turtle nesting season with minimal risk to nesting sea turtles. Sand fences are best located seaward of the crest of the primary dune and for sea turtle protection must be configured as follows: a maximum of ten (10) foot long spurs of sand fencing spaced at a minimum of seven (7) feet on a diagonal alignment (facing the predominate wind direction) along the shoreline. Only one row is allowed within sea turtle nesting habitat.

Review by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is required for individual sand fencing projects that exceed 500 feet in length, shore-parallel, for alternative sand fence designs and for installation on sandy beaches in the following counties:

- Brevard County through Monroe County (Southeast Coast)
- Manatee County through Collier County (Southwest Coast)



If the primary reason for sand fencing is to control pedestrian access, a post and rope fence with a single strand of rope a minimum of three feet in height is preferred to reduce the amount of material in the dune system.

### Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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